

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: August 18, 2020
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others in attendance: Ned Baldwin, Eileen Vining, Steve Hayward, Mary McGurn, Chuck Ogden, Bill Tynan, Juliette Haas, Cara Becker, Rich Montone, Del Kinney, Liz Keen, Steve Cohen.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the August 11 meeting were accepted as amended.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

At 10:06am the hearing for location of poles to be erected on Millard Road by National Grid and Verizon was called to order. Mr. Hayward said that 3 new poles will be installed for electricity and phone service to a new home being build on the top end of Millard Road. The Board voted unanimously to approve the request. Hearing closed at 10:08am.

The Board interviewed Cara Becker for the position of Personnel Director. The Human Resources Committee highly recommends the Board hire Ms. Becker. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Cara Becker as Personnel Director for a 90 day probationary period at a salary that is within the budget, effective September 1, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS:

Housing Committee member Fred Gordon has applied on behalf of the Town for a Real Estate Technical Assistance Grant to obtain technical assistance in formulating an Affordable Housing Master Plan. The grant is for a total of \$25,000. Selectwoman Brazie reported that she was recently told that there is a very slim likelihood at this point that the homes from Great Barrington will be moved here. The issue is tied up in court and the developer is not likely to win on appeal.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board discussed with Building Inspector Ned Baldwin and Conservation Commission Chairman Bill Tynan issues surrounding jurisdiction of the Commission on building permits that do not require any ground work, such as roofing, window replacement, etc. Commission Chairman Tynan agreed that the Commission would not have jurisdiction but thought that the Commission has to vote on each issue at an open meeting. It was suggested that a blanket vote be taken to remove those forms of permits from the jurisdiction fo the Commission. Chairman McGurn, Chairman Tynan and Inspector Baldwin will confer with Town Counsel on this issue.

A draft Shared Streets & Spaces Grant is going before the Complete Streets Committee later in the week for finalization. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's Eammon Coughlin has been very helpful in moving this application process along. The deadline is September 29.

Vice-chairwoman Vermeulen has spoken with Planning Board Chairman Jared Kelly regarding the Special Town Meeting to express the Board's wishes to have action taken on the Accessory Dwelling Unit bylaw and a Marijuana Bylaw. The Planning Board understands the urgency and an ADU bylaw should be forthcoming in a timely manner, but feels that there is not adequate time for the Marijuana Bylaw. Selectwoman Vermeulen expressed concern over Town Clerk Juliette Haas expressing her lack of time to deal with a Town Meeting and asked about the urgency of all the issues. Chairman McGurn said that some budget issues that have come to light recently are important, such as the projected overage in the expenses for the Transfer Station.

Selectwoman Brazie noted that though the issue could possibly wait the funding for the Holyoke Gas & Electric back up operations agreement cannot wait. The board agreed when holding the Annual Town Meeting that a Special Town Meeting would be held. Selectwoman Brazie said that though the role of the Town Clerk in a Town Meeting is to be the minute taker, and vote counter at the meeting and reporting votes after the meeting. It's is not a large role and everyone working as a team together can get it done. The Town Meeting will go on as tentatively scheduled for October 13. A draft warrant will be reviewed by the Board on September 1.

Liz Keen presented a plan for a walkway and pollinator garden in French Park along the tree line near the upper ball field and dog park. The Board asked he to make a formal presentation at the next board meeting.

COVID-19:

Health director Juliette Haas asked the Board to approve the holding a flu clinic at the French Park bandstand in mid to late September. The Board approved.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES/THINGS NOT TO FORGET:

It was noted that the Town's birthday celebration video was wonderful. T-shirts are selling very nicely. Revenue to the Town for the 250th celebration event is already at \$1,320.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

Though the Town Hall is closed because it is election day, the Board will meet on September 1 at 10am via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.21/aug18

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.